

Highlights of Part III: Reference of Management Practices in Live-Poultry Markets in the United States, 2004

Poultry '04 is the National Animal Health Monitoring System's (NAHMS) second study of the U.S. poultry industry. Layers '99 was the first national study on poultry baseline health and management. Layers '99 estimated the prevalence and associated risk factors of *Salmonella enterica* enteritidis in U.S. layer flocks. For Poultry '04 NAHMS conducted a thorough assessment to determine the information needs of the poultry industry, researchers, and Federal and State governments. The assessment indicated a need for information regarding bird health, bird movement, and biosecurity practices of backyard flocks, gamefowl, and live-poultry markets.

This report focuses on bird movement and cleaning and disinfection practices at live-poultry markets divided into two regions:

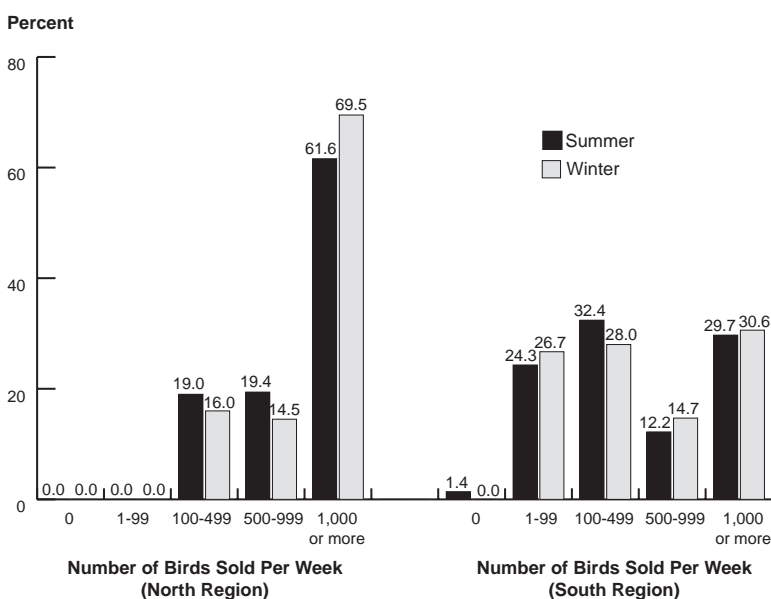
- North Region: New York, New Jersey, New England and Pennsylvania
- South Region: California, Florida and Texas

The reported data from the selected sample were weighted so that the population estimates provided in Section I of the report represent all live-poultry markets in the respective study areas. Section II of the report provides avian influenza test results from samples taken at the markets over a 12-month period.

Market Characteristics

In the North region, 61.6 percent of markets sold 1,000 or more birds per week during summer, and 69.5 percent of markets sold 1,000 or more birds per week during winter (figure 1). Over half of markets in the South region sold fewer than 500 birds per week in summer and winter (58.1 percent and 54.7 percent, respectively).

Figure 1. Percentage of Markets by Number of Birds Sold Per Week in Summer and Winter, and by Region



Overall, 92.2 percent of markets had broilers or roasters onsite in the previous 30 days. More markets in the North region had spent laying hens onsite (93.1 percent) and spent broiler breeders (73.5 percent) than markets in the South region (66.7 and 34.7 percent, respectively). In the North region, 89.6 percent of markets had ducks and 3.4 percent of markets had geese, while in the South region 58.7 percent of markets had ducks and 20.0 percent had geese. In the South region, 14.7 percent of markets had pet birds and 38.7 percent had other bird species. Other reported bird species included pigeon and squab.

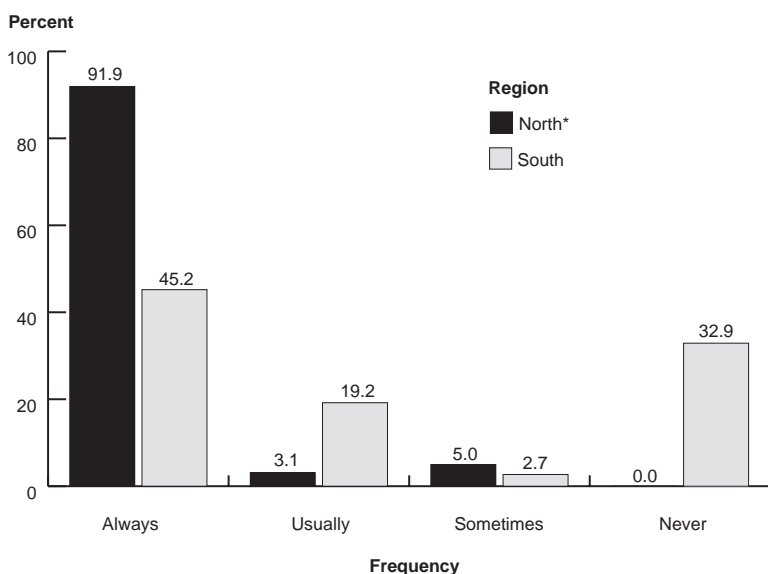
In the North region, 81.3 percent of markets reported having rabbits onsite in the previous 30 days compared to 44.0 percent of markets in the South region. Only 1.9 percent of markets in the

North region and 8.0 percent of markets in the South region had pigs onsite during the previous 30 days.

Overall, 60.3 percent of markets had cleaned and disinfected market floors 30 or more times in the previous 30 days. Most markets (73.9 percent) had cleaned and disinfected the entire market at least once in the previous 30 days.

Most markets in the North region¹ (91.9 percent) always slaughtered birds onsite, compared to less than half of markets in the South region (45.2 percent). One-third of markets in the South region (32.9 percent) never slaughtered birds onsite (figure 2).

Figure 2. Percentage of Markets by Frequency Birds were Slaughtered Onsite and by Region



*Since it is illegal in New York and New Jersey to remove live birds from live-poultry markets, the reported percentage of markets in the North Region that always slaughtered birds onsite is likely overestimated.

The majority of markets in the North region (91.0 percent) used trash pick-up to dispose of bird carcasses and offal, compared to 22.6 percent of markets in the South region. About half of markets in the South region (52.0 percent) used renderer pick-up, while only 7.8 percent of markets in the North region did so.

Most market operators preferred to receive information from State or Federal agencies regarding changes in laws and/or requirements in English (71.4 percent), although just over a third of operators in the South region (37.3 percent) preferred Spanish. "Other" languages included Arabic, Korean, and Vietnamese.

Avian Influenza (AI) in Live-Poultry Markets

Testing for AI was performed more frequently in the North region where—between March 2004 and March 2005—98.4 percent of markets were tested at least once and 86.4 percent of markets were tested four or more times. In the South region, 73.1 percent of markets were tested at least once and 18.0 percent were tested four or more times.

For markets that tested for AI at least once, markets in the North region tested positive for H5 or H7 during 14.6 percent of testing visits (separate occasions). No markets in the South region tested positive for H5 or H7 at any time during the year.

Compared to markets that cleaned and disinfected 3 or more times during the previous 30 days, markets that did not perform a complete cleaning and disinfection during the previous 30 days were 3.3 times more likely to be positive for AI H5/H7.

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